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# A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., SEPT. 15, 1897.

NO. 3.

## A FEW HENS.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

Michael K. Boyer,  
Hammonton, N. J.

To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed. SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS, and all business matters must be sent to the publication office. Address such letters  
**A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.**

This paper will be published MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field will be the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and the farms of all America.

### Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon long "spun out" theories, but who are anxious to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be read in spare moments and put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS believes in thoroughbred stock and strictly first-class crosses. It does not favor high-class Standard-bred birds for utility. It will not devote any of its columns to the fancy, leaving that to journals better adapted for that work.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the CREAM and not the skim-milk of poultry information.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

### EDITORIAL HINTS.

Grit—  
Pluck—  
Energy—  
Perseverance—  
The four sign posts pointing to success.

Pay as you go.  
Keep down the cobwebs.  
Large flocks never pay.  
How ragged the hens do look.  
Profit by the experience of others.  
Don't boast—let your actions speak.  
Shiftlessness causes dear experience.  
Neglected poultry neglect the owners.  
Have things as convenient as possible.  
Success is not measured altogether by capital.  
No fortune in poultry—only an honest living.  
There is profit in anything you take care of.

### Experimental Farm Notes.

*Will it Pay the Farmer to Keep a Small Flock of Ducks? Four Ducks and a Drake that Gave a Profit of \$4.60 Each.*

On the sixth of March we received our first duck egg. As stated in our July issue, we started in the "duck business" by securing four ducks from Chas. F. Newman, and a fine drake from A. J. Hallock. They quit laying and went quickly into moult on the last day of July. In all that time there was but one day that we failed to receive an egg and that was on the 27th day of July.

### The Egg Record Stands as Follows:

MARCH:—1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 3, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4.—Total for month, 81 eggs.

APRIL:—3, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4.—Total for month, 109 eggs.

MAY:—4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 3, 3.—Total for month, 108 eggs.

JUNE:—3, 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 2, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4, 2, 3.—Total for month, 102 eggs.

JULY:—3, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2, 3, 4, 3, 3, 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 4, 3, 2, 4, 2, 4, 4, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2.—Total for month, 86 eggs.

(NOTE—In our notes in August issue we give the duck egg yield for April, as 108 eggs. It should read 109 eggs, as above.)

This gives us a total of 486 eggs for the five months, or an average of a fraction over 121 eggs for each duck. Mr. Newman wrote us that the ducks were laying before he shipped them, and, as stated in our last issue, began again shortly after we received them. We have no record of the number of eggs they laid before we bought them, neither do we know how many eggs were lost by shipment, but it is reasonable to suppose that these ducks, if given full credit and not been moved about, would have averaged 150 eggs each for the full season. There was one duck in the flock, judging from her appearance, which must have laid fully 150 eggs in the time we owned her.

About fifty per cent of the eggs we set were fertile, and hatched; but we lost many of the ducklings by the hens trampling upon them in the nest. Had we used incubators, we believe we could have had much better success—at least on that score. These breeding ducks and the drake were but a year old. They will show much better fertility next year.

As setting hens were scarce, we could not get a chance to set many of the duck eggs, so must base our calculations on what we did, and what we could reasonably have done. At the percentage of fertility and hatch, had we set every egg those ducks laid, we would have had about two hundred ducklings to market. These would have run an average of one dollar each, dressed, or an income of two hundred dollars. In other words, it would have been possible to make a clear hundred dollars on the product of that flock of four ducks and a drake.

But what did we do? We hatched thirty-one ducklings, and sold for family use four hundred eggs at two cents each, or \$8.00. The thirty-one ducklings, at one dollar each, amounted to thirty-one dollars, plus value of eggs, or a total of thirty-nine dollars. Sixteen dollars paid for the feed of the old and young up to August 1st, which left a clear gain of twenty-three dollars, or a profit of \$4.60 per duck (taking the drake in as an equal partner.) That certainly should be proof enough that there is enough money in a small flock of ducks, and it will pay farmers to give the matter some thought.

Next season we intend to increase our duck breeding stock, and as we will use incubators and brooders, we will be able to test the business on a small scale, by artificial methods. But what we have accomplished this season will be more in line with the farmer's work.

During the past month we have added two more 4x4 foot houses (same as noted in last issue) for chickens and ducklings.



**Farm Notes—Continued.**

The stock we raise this season will be kept over for breeding purposes next year, barring extra cockerels, or such pullets as it might not be advisable to keep. The same with ducks and drakes.

We shall give all the facts as they occur, and give results as we find them, so that the beginner can feel encouraged if he beats our figures, and not discouraged if he but equals them. We are going to try to build up a trade on these two acres so that it will yield an income sufficient for a man, his wife and two children, to live on. We think it can be done.

What do we call a living? We do not refer to a luxurious life, by any means. There are a great many men who make but one dollar and a half a day, and are happy. There are thousands of such, and they have to work hard. We have set the figure at two dollars a day, and we want to go beyond that, if we can.

**About Broilers and Roasters.**

Constant care—  
Careful nursing—  
Eternal vigilance—  
Are needed to grow profitable broilers.

Beware of pinfeathers.

Langshans make grand roasters.

Put a tag on your dressed poultry.

Don't force too heavy in the start.

Feed first for growth; then for fat.

The broiler must not have free range.

Attractive carcasses make quick sales.

Cats love broilers; is your cat honest?

Don't depend on buying eggs for hatching.

The demand for poultry meat annually increases.

You cannot raise choice broilers on manure piles.

A broiler must not weigh over two pounds, dressed.

Yellow legs and skin do not necessarily denote quality of flesh.

Broilers in winter and ducks in summer is a profitable partnership.

Fruit in summer, broilers in winter, is a Hammonton combination.

Some of the broiler plants have again started the incubators for the season.

A full breast, broad back, and plump body, are what make attractive broilers

Houdans make good broilers. They are rapid growers, and in dressing them there is little offal.

Among the best table fowls are Games, Dorkings, Houdans and Langshans—white fleshed birds.

One branch of the poultry business that is often greatly misjudged, says the *Farmer's Guide*, is broiler raising.

Some people get the idea into their heads that any novice can start broiler raising and make it a success at once.

The refrigerator trade allows speculators to palm off frozen and thawed-out stock, to an unsuspected public, as fresh.

The *Rural New-Yorker*, in a last May issue, tells how a retailer thawed out

some chickens, brought out of a refrigerator, having been frozen solid for months. They were placed into cold water and allowed to remain for a time. They came out as fresh looking as if they had been killed the day before. That is the kind of "chickens" the city folks feast upon.

We can recommend **BROILERS FOR PROFIT** as thoroughly practical. It does not "boom" the business, but gives both sides, the profits and the risk, and tells how those of long experience conduct it successfully.—*Farm Journal*

**BROILERS FOR PROFIT** is one of the largest and best works ever published on the subject. It gives a great deal of information, and is compiled from the experiences of the oldest broiler raisers in the country.—*Wisconsin Agriculturist*.

**BROILERS FOR PROFIT** is the name of a very comprehensive treatise by M. K. Boyer. No one has done more for the poultry interest at large, in a practical way, than Mr. Boyer, and his latest work is a whole library in a small compass. It is sold for 50 cents, and worth a dollar to any one looking for information upon the subject.—*Michigan Poultry Breeder*.

**Eggs and Egg Farming.**

A dirty egg looks distasteful.

The hen cannot grow eggs and lice at the same time.

Unfertilized eggs, even if subjected to a heat of 103° for a week, are not spoiled for cooking or eating.

Don't forget that hens for laying must receive a different ration than when kept for marketing purposes.

Felch, and other authorities, claim that the eggs from a hen will be fertile for ten days after the removal of a cock bird.

The Plymouth Rock is very easily overfatted, and hence for egg production must not be fed too heavily on fat-producing food.

Give each egg a washing in warm water, before marketing, and if that does not remove the stains, a little home-made cider vinegar will.

It is said by some experts that when an egg has a hard, metallic sound when struck, it will not hatch. The egg with a dead, chalky shell is equally worthless for incubation.

Good crosses for excellent laying are White Wyandotte on Light Brahma; Black Minorca on Black Langshan; White Leghorn on Light Brahma; Brown Leghorn on Partridge or Buff Cochins; or Houdan on American or Asiatic hens.

A hen that will not pay for her keeping in eggs, should be made to pay it in her carcass. The great secret of success is to keep only such as are good layers, and turning the inferior ones into money by killing for marketing.

Ten years ago, says Iowa *Homestead*, the average yield of eggs, per hen, was eight dozen, and it is eight dozen yet. It should be double that amount. Fanciers do not want winter eggs, so that instead of breeding up to good winter laying, they are bred out of it.

"My hens have paid the grain bill for themselves and two thousand chicks, bought me a top buggy, paid the grocery bills for the family, and put \$300 in the savings bank during the past three months," says a writer in the *Maine Farmer*. Asked in regard to winter production, he said: "You know I have eleven hundred hens, and for the month of February they averaged two hundred dozen eggs weekly."

Condition powders cannot assist a hen to get something out of nothing, truthfully states the *Wisconsin Farmer*. If the albumen is not in a large amount of food, it will not be found in a teaspoonful of condition powder. But the powder will be valuable in toning up the system and putting it in a state so that the food from which eggs are made will be better used and the organs strengthened that the egg can be easily laid after it is manufactured. Condition powders do not make eggs, but they have a tendency to making hens lay for the reasons stated.

Ambler Brothers, Stissing, N. Y., have an egg farm, supplying customers direct. Here are some pointers they sent to A FEW HENS, that are worth noticing: "Strictly fresh eggs carry with them their own recommendation, and need no argument to prove their superiority. Believing that the food a fowl eats affects the quality as well as the quantity of the eggs produced, we feed clean, sound food, and of a considerable variety, and we claim for our eggs a finer, richer flavor on that account. We maintain cleanliness, order and regularity in the management of our fowls, all of which we think tend to a first class product. We ship clean, fresh laid, fresh gathered eggs from our own poultry yards direct to our customers."

**CORNISH** Indian Games. After Sep. 1st, 4 Imported to sell. HARRY D. GATH, Oxford, Ohio.

**HOOPER'S LICE FORMULA** kills insect life with lightning despatch. Lice, Mites, Bedbugs, Ants, etc., exterminated with magical effect. Copyrighted directions, post-paid, for 10 cents. F. L. HOOPER, Station D, Baltimore, Md.

**Buff } Plymouth Rocks,  
Leghorns.**

Stock and Eggs for Sale in Season.  
**OUR STOCK IS GOOD.**

**BROOKDALE FARM,**

BOUND BROOK, N. J.

(Write for prices.) **L. S. BACHE, PROP.**

**Madison Square Winners.**

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Haes. **W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.**

**THE LIGHT-RUNNING  
PREMIER  
BONE CUTTER.**  
THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF THE KNIVES  
ARE SUCH THAT  
NOT ONLY A WOMAN  
BUT A CHILD CAN  
CUT BONES  
WITH EASE.  
SEND FOR  
SPECIAL CIRCULAR.  
**P. A. WEBSTER**  
CAZENOVIA, N. Y.





**Ducks and Ducklings.**

An earth floor is best.  
 The duck breeding season is over.  
 Cracklings are excellent for ducks.  
 Will the duck market ever become glutted?  
 Avoid overcrowding ducks as you would hens.  
 The first eggs of the season are rarely fertile.  
 Ducks are good hatchers but poor mothers.  
 Salt hay, leaves or chopped straw make good bedding.  
 Charcoal in the food of the young, will prevent sickness.  
 Green oats is an excellent crop to follow rye in the spring.  
 Sweet corn fodder should be sown very thickly in the drill.  
 In the earlier days of duck farming, the Muscovy was used.  
 It is a mistake to allow young ducklings an unlimited range.  
 Medium sized drakes are considered the best for market production.  
 Duck feathers in the market stand high above those of hen or turkey.  
 Ducks kept on land, must have fresh water at least three times a day.  
 It is said that crossing Muscovy on Pekin will produce sterile progeny.  
 Never yard chickens with ducklings, as the latter pollute the drinking water.  
 The popularity of duck meat seems to grow as fast as its production increases.  
 A less number of drakes are needed in a flock where bathing water is supplied.  
 Rye cut during the winter can be stored in a cold building and fed as needed.  
 Better lay in a lot of turnips to be fed cooked when other green food is scarce.  
 Like the Brahma fowl, the Pekin duck is the least liable to disease of their race.  
 The duck is not only a prolific layer, but the eggs are richer in fat than are hen eggs.  
 Half-grown ducks, when overcrowded in a pen, are apt to get into the vice of feather pulling.  
 James Rankin sows rye or barley every summer in the unused duck yards, in order to purify them.  
 Carbolate of lime scattered about the duck houses and watering troughs will disinfect the premises.  
 Do not feed green food the week before killing for market, as it gives the flesh a too yellow appearance.  
 Mr. Rankin estimates that a young duck can be grown to ten weeks of age at a cost for food of four cents per pound.  
 At seven years of age, the breeding duck is about equal in vigor and productiveness, as a hen is when four years old.  
 Sow a patch of rye this fall, and it will grow several inches high before it freezes. It will make good green feed for winter.  
 F. J. S., Connecticut, had better buy his breeding ducks this fall. They

will have ample time then to "feel at home" before breeding season.

On the Rankin farm one man will dry pick from seventy to seventy-five ducklings per day, for which he receives five and a half cents each, and board.

Prof. Cushman, in *American Agriculturist*, says the price of early market ducks has not declined to what was expected when so many were taking up the business a number of years ago.

**Geese for Profit.**

Low, wet pastures are enjoyed by geese. Goslings are fond of young growing corn. Keeping geese for eggs alone is not profitable.

Geese should be confined as little as possible.

One woman alone cannot cram more than twelve geese an hour.

Do not forget that the goose requires grass as much as she does water.

It is said that 150,000 geese annually pass through the market of Strasburg.

It is a good plan to sell the goslings alive at from six to eight weeks of age.

Dutch cheese, bread crumbs and baked corn bread, are excellent to start goslings with.

Mrs. A. J. A., South Dakota, must not pick her goslings, or it will retard their growth.

In Strasburg, a place celebrated for its pies, the geese have a shepherd to tend them as sheep have.

Last year, Wilbour & Son, Little Compton, R. I., raised 1,000 goslings from ninety-seven female geese.

Mr. Brabazon says if you want to teach a gosling to eat, you must do so by throwing the food in water.

Two geese and a gander is the best number to begin with; the second year another goose may be added.

Matthieu, the cook of Cardinal de Rohan was the first who suggested the use of the liver of the goose for pies.

While a pond of water is very desirable for breeding geese, during laying season, it is not strictly necessary.

In Europe the liver of the goose is much esteemed, which is sold to pie makers who make of it the well known pies.

A successful goose raiser says very early hatched geese are the best for stock, or very late birds in their second year.

The shells of the eggs being tough, it is necessary to sprinkle them every now and then during the hatch, with lukewarm water.

Richardson, an English authority, says that for the purpose of hatching, a gander should be mated with, at most, four geese.

J. R. Brabazon, of Delavan, Wis., says goslings will not eat for the first three or four days. Then he gives them tender young lettuce or grass sprinkled in water.

According to an experiment tried in Rhode Island, fall-sown rye, spring sown oats and peas, and sweet corn, will furnish pasture sufficient for two hundred geese per acre.

A New Jersey raiser feeds his young goslings johnny cake the first two weeks. After that he feeds scalded shorts, bran and corn meal, to which is added a liberal amount of ground beef scraps.

**WE NEED** an active representative in every community to offer the H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed. Michael K. Boyer, formerly editor of "Farm-Poultry," says, "There are three requisites for success in the poultry business; good stock, comfortable quarters and the H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed." Active agents will be liberally dealt with. Address, The H-O Company, Feed Department, 71-73 Park Place, New York, N. Y.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

**Poultry Supplies**

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

**FRED. G. ORR & CO.,**

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

**WILSON'S Buff Plymouth Rocks.** The leading market variety. Free from dark pin feathers. Large size, and early to mature. Are winners on both sides of the Atlantic. Write wants. J. D. WILSON, Box 127 M, Worcester, N. Y.

**Bargains in Cockerels.**

Orders booked now for Cockerels, as follows: **Single Comb White Leghorns,** Wyckoff and Curtis strains.

**White Wyandottes,** Duston, Coburn, Stevenson and Forsyth strains.

**Light Brahmas,** Felch strain. Also

**Pekin Ducks,** Hallock-Newman stock.

Prices for Cockerels or Drakes, \$2, \$3 and \$5.

**MICHAEL K. BOYER,** Hammonton, N. J.

**THIS PAPER** will cost you only **Twenty-five Cents** for **TWELVE MONTHS.** Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

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Are Practical and Profitable.

A little book that tells why for the asking.

Good breeders and show birds for sale at reasonable prices.

**A. J. HALLOCK,**

Atlantic Farm, Speenk, L. I., N. Y.

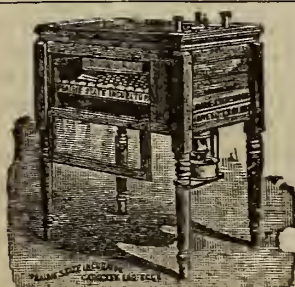
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**HOMER CITY, PA.**





# A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

## ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

## EDITORIAL.

The circulation of this issue of A FEW HENS is 20,000 copies. The October number will have 30,000. According to our advertising rate—one-half cent per agate line for each 1,000 circulation—our price on transient advertising for October will be fifteen cents per agate line. Was there ever advertising as cheap as that? Remember the next six issues will have a circulation not less than 30,000 each issue (or 180,000 for the six months—and it may reach 200,000.) Contracts by the year will be at even a less figure. A FEW HENS has already been greatly favored, and this coming fall, winter and spring we intend carrying our share of patronage.

Advertising in A FEW HENS is the way to start business. With a circulation from 20,000 to 30,000 a month, going direct to farmers and those who are interested in raising poultry and eggs for market, we are carrying the advertisements direct to the buyers. As proof of this L. S. Bache, proprietor of the Brookdale Farm, Bound Brook, N. J., writes: "I received an answer to my advertisement in A FEW HENS, three days after publication." The Prairie State Incubator Company, Homer City, Pa., write that they secured three customers shortly after the first number was issued. And there are others.

A FEW HENS takes pleasure in recommending Prof. Samuel Cushman, to all societies, institutes and meetings desiring a competent, practical and up-to-date lecturer on topics showing how to make poultry pay. Mr. Cushman has an easy and plain way of addressing an audience, and his lectures are devoid of that polish and technicalities which make it hard for the plain honest farmer to understand. Mr. Cushman's address is Pawtucket, R. I., and those desiring such services had better write him.

While it is the aim of the editor of A FEW HENS to give pointers that are strictly in season, at the same time,

under several heads, hints of value are necessarily given out of season. We jot down a thought, or cull an idea, just when it occurs. Take, for instance, our brevities on "Ducks and Ducklings." While we have mentioned many things that are in season, there are equally as many items recorded that are peculiar to some other time. We believe that each and every issue of A FEW HENS will be saved for reference—and that is our only apology.

"Mr. Mann, how old must the child be to run those bone cutters?"—(July 15th issue A FEW HENS.)

We had just finished a boom article in an agricultural paper, advising boys to engage in poultry farming, and showing how easily a boy could do the work and make money, when our eye caught the advertisement of the Mann bone cutters, with the catch line: "A boy can run it." After being so amused at the aforesaid article, to now read the same idea in Mr. Mann's advertisement, we ventured the above query, intending it fully as a joke, which we believe the F. W. Mann Co. accept as such. We never ran a Mann bone cutter, so we do not want to create the impression that what we said was meant for sarcasm, or to create the impression to our readers that a boy or child could not run these machines. So, personally, we know nothing about the running of them at present, but as we expect shortly to try one, we can speak more knowingly in the future. But it seems there are some children that can run them. We received three letters in reply to this inquiry, as follows:

James Bowring, Alpine, Pa.: "My little girl, nine years old, can grind with my Mann bone cutter."

Mrs. John Mountjoy, Armington, Ill.: "Our little boy, five years old, can run our Mann bone cutter with ease."

W. T. Plan, North Dighton, Mass.: "My seven year old boy can run the Mann bone cutter I have."

RELIABLE POULTRY REMEDIES, 32 pages. Price 10 Cents. Published by Reliable Poultry Journal Publishing Co., Quincy, Illinois.

This is a valuable manual of tried and proved remedies for the common diseases of poultry. It should be in the hands of all poultrymen.

POULTRY HOUSES AND FIXTURES, 32 pages. Price 25 Cents. Published by Reliable Poultry Journal Publishing Co., Quincy, Illinois.

This book is certainly a valuable addition to poultry literature. It is replete with up-to-date designs of practical poultry buildings for the city lot, the village acre, and the farm.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, Pawtucket, R. I., writes: "Have just read the first issue of A FEW HENS, and noted the plan laid out. I think you have a good thing before you. With I. S. Johnson & Co., of Boston, as managers of the business end, I think you are coming out all right. If I was about to start a poultry paper, that would be about my idea. Hope that in ten years you will have the largest circulation of all poultry papers, and be able to charge the highest rate for advertising space." We intend getting there long before ten

years, Professor, but the basis on which our advertising rates are placed, will remain the same for some time to come.

The Royal Tribe of Joseph *Herald* in a recent issue says: "Upon the editorial desk we have No. 1, Vol. 1, of a new poultry paper for beginners, under the very suggestive title of A FEW HENS. It is veritably a 'boiled down' journal giving the cream, and not the skim-milk of poultry information, and edited by Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, N. J. It is, however, published in Boston, Mass., at the very low price of 25 cents per annum. As the American biddy hen has shown herself interested in American prosperity, by adding very materially to the farm and poultry yard products of our land, we make no apology for thus introducing A FEW HENS to the notice of the members of our order."

The *Practical Poultryman* gives this neat notice: "Michael K. Boyer is not content unless he is editing a poultry journal, so now offers the public a neat little sheet entitled A FEW HENS. Mike has always shown himself thoroughly competent to pilot such a ship and we trust he will meet with abundant success in this new venture."

The good old *Poultry Monthly*, in a neat notice of A FEW HENS, says: "There is no man in America better fitted for this purpose than Mr. Boyer, and as I. S. Johnson & Co. will be publishers, the success of the paper is assured." Of course our hat is off to Editor Holmes.

Emory Banks, in *Practical Poultryman*, says: "No! 'Uncle Mike' Boyer's paper is not 'so called,' but a practical 'much in little' paper for beginners as well as professionals, and is rightly named 'A FEW HENS.' Long may it live."

I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., write: "Have just received the first copy of A FEW HENS. We predict for it a bright and healthy future, knowing the amount of grit and knowledge there is in the editorial chair."

In announcing the advent of A FEW HENS, Uncle Bobby Braden, in the "great and only" *Ohio Poultry Journal*, says: "The brother knows how to make a good one, and we hope he will do well financially."

W. W. Osgood, Massachusetts, says he thinks A FEW HENS "the right thing in the right place. Put me down for one year!" That's the way to talk.

"The poultry raisers have reason to congratulate themselves upon the advent of A FEW HENS," writes L. S. Bache, Bound Brook, N. J.

Oscar D. Cole, Wayland, N. Y., says the directions for running an incubator, in the first issue, are worth many times the price of the paper.

The *Inter-State Poultryman* predicts a successful undertaking for our venture, as "Uncle Mike has a penchant for A FEW HENS."

A. J. Silberstein, Framingham, Mass., believes A FEW HENS will jump to the front from the start. A good prediction indeed.

"May A FEW HENS prosper, and pay for their keep," is a pretty toast sent us by Mrs. May Taylor, of Hale City, Mo.



**Pointers on Food and Feeding.**

Feed makes the breed.  
 Hens are regular gluttons.  
 Don't waste good feed on scrub stock.  
 Lime is essential in the production of eggs.  
 Clover is rich in nitrogen and mineral matter.  
 The ailing fowls are generally the very fat ones.  
 The various grains are more or less deficient in lime.  
 Clover is as much an egg-producer as a producer of milk.  
 The best clover to use is "rowen," or second crop clover.  
 Damaged foods are dangerous at all times, and to all stock.  
 Double-yolked eggs are a good indication that the hens are fed too liberally.  
 Clover has a high nutritive ratio, being equal to barley, and almost as high as wheat.  
 Charcoal should be kept in a thoroughly dry vessel with a close-fitting cover, so as to exclude the air.  
 Many of the so-called cases of chicken cholera have been traced to the fowls drinking stagnant water.  
 Clover should be cut when in full blossom. Let it grow until the first blossoms begin to turn brown.  
 Clover extends the food ration, reduces the too-concentrated grain food, and prevents the accumulation of internal fat.  
 G. W., Canada, will find that in a flock of five hundred fowls, the average cost of feeding will be one dollar per head.  
 A single diet, writes G. O. Brown, will bring various ills—not fat alone—but cases of indigestion and bad bowels as well.  
 The cross hens that drive others away, are apt to eat more than their share of food, thus quite certain of becoming overfat.  
 Never throw weeds or long grass in the hen yard. The hens have no teeth to bite off pieces, and crop bound is generally the result.  
 Charcoal is not only a great corrective of the evils of injudicious overfeeding, but it is also a good remedy in bowel disorders of poultry.  
 In growing flesh, feathers, bone and muscle, at the same time, it is necessary that the chicks be liberally supplied with a varied diet.  
 If charcoal is heated well before given to the poultry, it will have a tendency to drive off impurities which may have become absorbed, and will be equal to fresh charcoal.  
 Charcoal has wonderful absorbent powers, especially for gases, writes G. O. Brown. Only a small quantity should be put in the feed hoppers at a time on account of its absorptive nature.  
 Judge Brown says that when Plymouth Rock cockerels are about four months old, about the time they commence to crow, if they are freely fed on raw meat, it will cause their combs to become abnormally large.

**Turkey Culture.**

Never use a gobbler that is akin to the hens.  
 Turkey hens are good incubators and brooders.  
 Coop for young turkeys should have board floors.  
 A good sign is to see the young turkeys catching flies.  
 Grass and insects compose the natural diet of turkeys.  
 When turkeys are more or less confined, they must have a dust bath.  
 Turkeys during grasshopper season, need very little night feeding.  
 Two meals a day are sufficient for young turkeys after two months of age.  
 In the fall the flocks generally break up, the males leaving the females.  
 Young turkeys are the best "insecticide" you can have in the garden.  
 There is nothing so valuable as a running stream of water on the turkey farm.  
 The natural food of the turkey in the wild state consists of worms, insects, berries, seeds and grass.  
 After the poults are six weeks old, most of the work and danger in raising them are practically over.  
 An English writer says the eggs from young breeding stock produce a greater number of gobblers.  
 While boiled eggs are good for the young, they must not be fed exclusively, or constipation will follow.

Keep corn from the turkey yard until the birds are nearly ready to be fattened for market, or cold weather sets in.

If a gobbler is present during the time of laying the first clutch of eggs, the second clutch will be fertile without his presence.

As turkeys must have range, be sure to enter into an agreement with your neighbor before starting, or you might suffer the penalty of trespass.

A turkey raiser in Texas says he keeps his turkeys up three days, during which time he feeds them on corn bread dough, made up with sweet milk

R. B. Sapernell writes that he finds the following diet excellent for young turkeys: Hard boiled eggs, with dandelion, lettuce, onions or nettles chopped up with a little bread crumbs; to this may be added a little rice boiled in sweet skim-milk, a little suet or greaves, and in wet or cold weather a little cayenne pepper, with grain of all sorts as the birds grow older.

**Artificial Hatching and Brooding.**

The incubator is always ready.  
 A child cannot run an incubator.  
 Proper ventilation is a vital necessity.  
 The incubator does not tread upon the chicks.  
 All hot water tanks should be made of copper.  
 The dryer the air, the more rapid is evaporation.  
 Do not have more flame on the lamp than is necessary.





**Hatching and Brooding--Continued**

Artificial methods have been a boom to market poultry culture.

The incubator that requires watching all night is not worth having.

The eggs themselves throw off very little heat for about the first two weeks.

A high temperature during the early part of the hatch is apt to prove fatal.

A machine not strong enough to hold a person sitting on it, will not be a reliable hatcher.

Remember that the instructions that will run one machine, will not necessarily fit another make.

A rise of temperature to 110°, on the eleventh day, if not too prolonged, will not necessarily prove fatal.

Raukin says if no more water surface is exposed in warm weather than in cold, not more than one-half the moisture is secured.

When testing eggs, having the tray out of the machine, do not be foolish enough to cover a cloth over them for fear of losing a little heat.

After removing the infertile eggs from the machine, spread out the fertile ones so that they occupy about the same relative position to one another.

The greatest excess of heat for a short period, says Cyphers, can probably be withstood after the sixteenth day, when the growth of the allantois is completed.

C. E. Chapman, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says enough extra eggs can be put on the trays to fill out the trays after the infertile ones are removed. He marked them "extras," and found that placing them on top of the others for five days did no injury. This gives the full capacity for the whole hatch.

Cyphers, in his book on incubation, says he finds the temperature of the eggs will average up, at the end of the first day of incubation, at about 97 1-2°; at the end of the second day 98 1-4°, and from this time on will gain uniformly one-fourth degree a day until the end of the eleventh day, having a temperature at that time of about 100 1-2 degrees. During the next two days the temperature rises to 101 1-2° or 102°, and remains more or less stationery at 102° until the end of incubation.

**Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.**

Fright injures fowls.

A bright red comb for health.

Iron is one of the best tonics.

Avoid draughts in the hen house.

Roup never appears without a cause.

Quarantine the fowls just purchased.

Ale is classified as a good general stimulant.

Most of the poultry diseases can be prevented.

Every poultry farm should have a hospital building.

Ginger will weaken the digestive organs, if used too long.

Asafoetida and gentian are excellent digestive stimulants.

Staggers in geese is often due to either giddiness or worms in the ears.

A bilious look, dysentery and costiveness, are indications of liver troubles.

"A hen can't get toothache, anyhow," says Stoddard, in his *Poultry Diseases*.

Asafoetida, garlic and onions, have a good effect on the lungs and bronchia.

For health of the fowl, keep the spade bright by frequent use in the hen yard.

When the edges of the comb and wattles are of a purplish red, look out for indigestion.

Stoddard says overfeeding leaves the blood full of material which will furnish a good seat for disease.

The afflicted hens belonging to Mrs. W. F. C., Virginia, no doubt are suffering from vertigo, caused by too-heavy corn feeding.

Damp, filthy, ill-ventilated houses; wet, swampy yards; impure drinking water, exposure to heavy winds and rain storms—are all causes for roup.

Hens very often start moulting in July, although August is the month they generally begin in. This is in reply to Mrs. G. C. W.'s (New York) inquiry.

For debility, Wright recommends a raw new-laid egg every morning, until the fowls begin to recover. Then change to a little cooked meat, and no tonic except perhaps a little muriate of iron in the water.

The California *Poultry Tribune* gives this roup cure: "One ounce oil of sassafras, one ounce best Jamaica ginger, one ounce tincture iron, one ounce alcohol, one-half ounce fluid extract prickly ash, one-fourth ounce oil of anise. Dose—fifteen drops to teaspoonful in each gallon of drinking water.

Pills made of one tablespoonful of lard, two tablespoonfuls of mustard, ginger and cayenne pepper, worked together thoroughly and stiffened with flour, are recommended by the North Carolina Experiment Station, for colds accompanied by a looseness of the bowels. Make the pills about the size of the first joint of the little finger, and give one pill two or three times a day, according to severity.

**H-O Poultry Feed Reports.**

T. E. Fuller, Pompton Lakes, N. J., writes that since feeding H-O Poultry Feed, his fowls look much better, and the eggs are richer and more plentiful than during periods when other foods were used.

David A. Nichols, President of the American Poultry Association, Monroe, Conn., recommends H-O as a first-class poultry food.

C. C. Lewis, Northampton, Mass., writes: "The fact that I have bought over 4,000 pounds in the last few months is, I think, proof that H-O Poultry Feed is a good thing. My market chickens have dressed off better than ever before; my pullets have begun laying earlier, and I have never had as little sickness as this season."

**CUT CLOVER** in sacks, \$1.50 per 100 lbs. Prickley Comfrey Roots, 50 cts. a lb. by mail. Will raise more green food than any other plant. Can be cut every month.

**I. G. QUIRIN**, Tioga Center, N. Y.

**CHOICE** early Ck'l's, \$2, \$3 each. From early maturing, prolific laying Brown egg strain of Lt. Brahma, Wh. Wyan. No inbreeding. Mention A Few Hens. **E. L. EATON**, Millington, Mass.

**COCKERELS** For Sale. Silver and White Wyandottes. Write for prices to **WM. H. CHILD**, Glenside, Pa.

**I. K. FELCH & SON**,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

**Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,**

**and White Wyandottes,**

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined, Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.



**SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER** in their food, once daily. If your hens are shedding their feathers, and not laying, they are out of condition. All the best poultry authorities say, "When a hen is in condition she will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time.

**SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER**

Is worth its weight in gold for molting hens.

**JOHN R. JONES**, of Suffield, Conn., says:—"I find Sheridan's Condition Powder, fed once daily in the food, very valuable for molting hens. It assists in growing new feathers, makes the combs bright red, and gives a rich plumage."

Costs one-tenth cent a day. Nothing on earth will

**Make Hens Lay**

like it. Therefore, no matter what kind of food you use, mix with it daily, Sheridan's Powder. It will increase your profit this winter while prices for eggs are high. It assures perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to form eggs.

If you can't get the Powder send to us. One pack, 25 cts; five, \$1. Large can, \$1.20. Six, \$5. Exp. paid. **I. S. JOHNSON & CO.**, Boston, Mass.

<p><b>MODEL EXCELSIOR</b></p> <p>Lowest Priced First-class Hatcher made.</p>	<p><b>HATCH CHICKENS WITH THE MODEL EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.</b></p> <p>Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.</p> <p><b>GEO. H. STAHL</b>, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers.</p>	<p><b>WOODEN HEN</b></p> <p>Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 25 egg capacity. Catalogue free.</p>	
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414 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



## Notes in Passing.

The scrub hen must go.

Don't use wood ashes with the hen manure. The lime in the ashes will set free the ammonia in the manure.

The scrub hen is causing a loss to the farmers of millions of dollars every year, says the *Rural New-Yorker*.

W. H. Rudd, in *Poultry Keeper*, very truthfully advises: "Begin small, and let your losses be small, and learn your lesson gradually—for we all had to creep before we could walk; and this is in accordance with the immutable law of nature."

Viewed in the light of common sense, says the *American Poultry Journal*, in a well-written editorial, we say that, for a young and industrious man, whose ambitions do not lie in politics or social display, there is no more hopeful line of work than that of poultry culture.

Replying to W. W. O., Massachusetts, would say that white feathers in the wings of Brown Leghorn chicks is a common occurrence in the best of stock. The fact that the eggs were set under a white hen has nothing to do with it. Those white feathers generally drop out for good as the chick assumes its adult plumage.

John C. Hannah, Lancaster, California, writes *A FEW HENS* as follows: "California possesses many advantages over the east for the poultry industry. We have very little winter frost, only three months, and we are free from chicken cholera, or any contagious diseases. With the experience and economy of eastern raisers, the business could be made a great success in this climate."

Here's a good one on Jacobs: In the August *Poultry Keeper* his opinion is asked about Smith & Romaines B. B. B. Jacobs didn't know that the B. B. B. stood for "Beef, Blood and Bone," and so he ventures this: "What do Smith & Romaine know about feeding your chicks? They may be good druggists but poor poultrymen. Such 'condiments' usually contain antimony, sulphur, copperas, etc., and some are harmless and worthless."

## Hallock's Pekin Ducks.

In publishing the advertisement of A. J. Hallock's Pekin ducks, we wish to call attention to the fact that people run no risk when they place their orders with the Atlantic Farm, as Mr. Hallock makes it a rule not to send out anything that is not as represented. Another rule is that any shipment not satisfactory to the purchaser, can be returned. As there has never been a shipment returned, it stands to reason that Hallock's Pekins are bound to please.

## Ready for Business.

The management of the PRACTICAL POULTRYMAN, Whitney's Point, N. Y., is again ready for business. Since the destructive fire of April, a large and elegant brick building has been erected and has been furnished with all the latest and most improved equipments, making one of the most complete and up-to-date plants in the country. The outfit for poultry printing is more elaborate than ever. The PRACTICAL POULTRYMAN is back in its old form with some improvements and will again serve its advertisers and readers in the same reliable and efficient way as heretofore.

## All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	-	-	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	-	-	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	-	-	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	-	25 "
Total,			\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,  
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

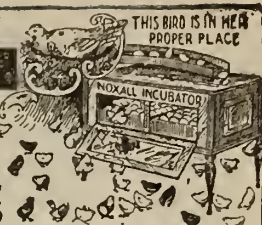
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## Best Liver Pill Made.

Positively cure Biliousness and Sick Headache, liver and Bowel complaints, They expel all impurities from the blood, Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cents; five, \$1.00. Book free. L. S. JOHNSON & CO., Box 2118, Boston, Mass.



THIS BIRD IS ALL RIGHT ONLY OUT OF PLACE. A GOLD MINE IN EGGS WHEN YOU USE THE IMPROVED NOXALL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. WARRANTED SELFREGULATING HAS A RECORD OF HATCHING 195 CHICKS OUT OF 200 EGGS SEND 6¢ IN STAMPS FOR FINE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE FULL OF INFORMATION FOR POULTRY RAISERS MANY IMPROVEMENTS FOR 98. DON'T FAIL TO INVESTIGATE BEFORE PURCHASING. G W MURPHY & CO. QUINCY ILLINOIS



## The Poultryman's Library.

### Books for the Beginner.

Poultry books have never been issued which contain more practical knowledge and such plainly written facts, as are found in the FARM-POULTRY series, issued by I. S. JOHNSON & Co., the publishers of FARM-POULTRY, Boston, Mass. Read over the synopsis of the contents of each work, as published below, and see if they are not what you have needed for a long time.

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By MICHAEL K. BOYER. Tells how to begin poultry farming; how to select stock; how to succeed; all about artificial incubation; how to run a butter and egg farm; how to feed for eggs; how to test eggs; how to combine poultry and fruit, broilers and vegetables; and how to run a general poultry farm. The chapter on duck farming is a complete book in itself, telling all about the large duck plants; how to run duck culture for profit; how to house, feed, hatch and dress ducks for market.

PRICE, 25 CENTS PER COPY.

#### Farm-Poultry Doctor,

By Dr. N. W. SANBORN. The most complete work ever issued upon the cause, prevention and cure of poultry diseases, besides giving full explanation on how to have sturdy stock; value of grit; how to properly house and yard; how to diet sick fowls; value of green food, and hints about grain.

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Take Notice. Either or all of the above books will be sent, post-paid, at the prices named above for each. Remit by express or post-office money order, cash or stamps. Send all your orders to either of the following addresses:

M. K. BOYER,  
HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY.

Or to the Publishers,

I. S. JOHNSON & CO.,  
22 Custom House Street, Boston.

## FARM-POULTRY.

### The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.

This paper is edited with great care. The publishers spare no expense to make it the leader among advanced poultry papers. It contains the experiences and observations of the life work of many breeders. There is no investment a poultry breeder can make, which will afford as much value for the money as a yearly subscription to Farm-Poultry.

Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10.

Send orders either to MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J., or the publishers below. L. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY, Boston, Mass.

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Originated in 1810 by an Old Family Physician Johnson's Anodyne Liniment could not have survived over eighty years unless it possesses extraordinary merit.

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is Soothing, Healing, Penetrating. Once used always wanted; and dealers say "Can't sell any other." Every Mother Should have JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT in the house for Croup, Colds, Sore Throat, Catarrh, Tonsillitis, Colic, Nervous Headache, Cuts, Bruises, Cramps, Pains, Relieves Summer Complaints like magic. Sold everywhere. Price, 35 cts. Six bottles \$2. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

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IF ORDERED AT ONE TIME, we will send the year's subscription to this paper, *A Few Hens*, and the FOUR books, for ONLY \$1.10, cash or stamps.

Send all orders and money to  
A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.



### The Moulting Season.

Give very little sulphur.  
The balanced ration is the best.  
See that the fowls are well fed.  
Let the food be rich in nitrogen.  
A moulting hen is easily fattened.  
Don't forget to give pure, fresh water.  
Give a variety of food, but very little corn.  
Keep the males separated from the females.  
Give the moulting fowls a grass run if possible.  
The apple orchard is an Eden for moulting hens.  
Moulting is a natural process, and not a disease.  
It takes about one hundred days for a hen to moult.  
At this season especially, observe the order of cleanliness.

Unless the material is in the food for making new feathers, the old ones will not be shed.

At this season, if confined, moulting fowls are apt to get in the vice of pulling feathers.

While a moulting hen can be safely eaten, the juices and flavor of the meat are absent.

Keep the fowls in a well sheltered place, where they are not exposed to sudden changes in the weather.

Dr. Sanborn says that birds should go into moult not fat, free from lice, and with no red mites in the house.

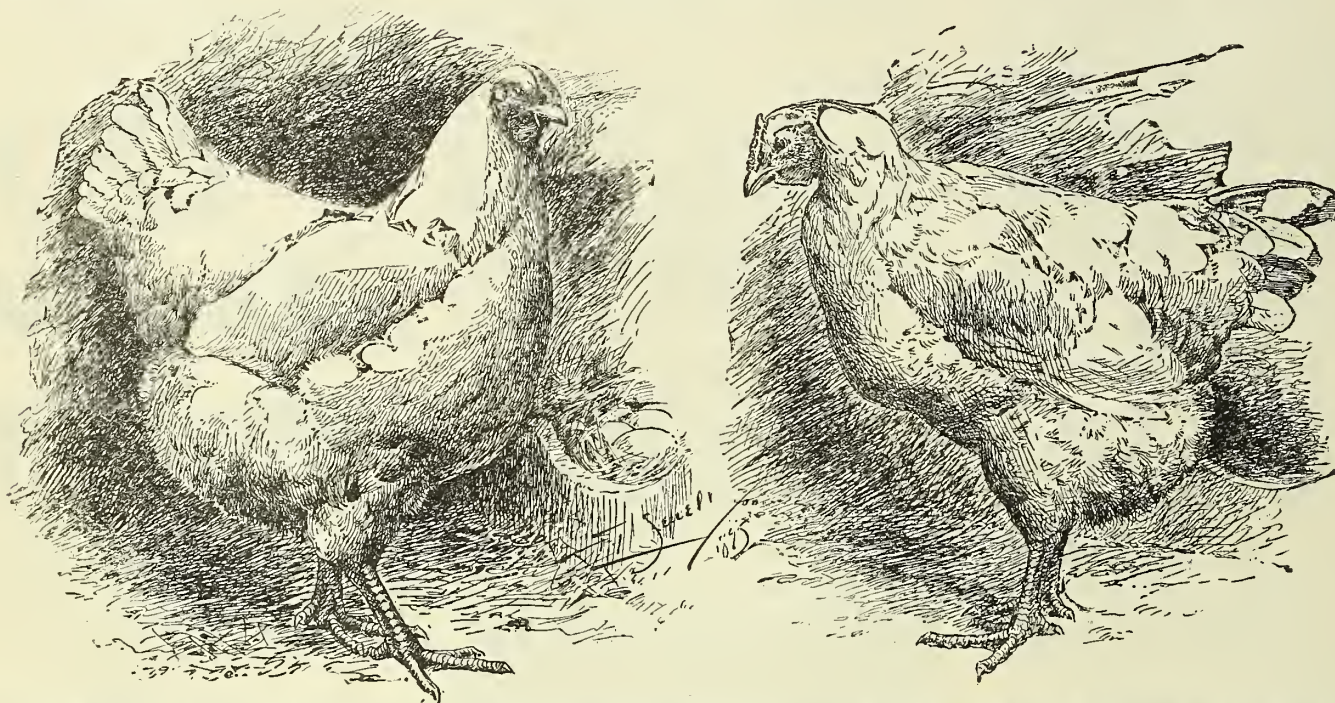
Hens have been known to undergo a double moult, a peculiarity more or less found with some of the birds of the forest.

A reliable condition powder—like Sheridan's—will not only assist the process, but tone the system, robbing the period of danger.

is made by taking of sulphate of iron (common copperas) eight ounces, and sulphuric acid, half fluid ounce. Put into a bottle or jug, one gallon of water; into this put the sulphate of iron, and as soon as the iron is dissolved, add the acid, and the mixture is ready for use. Dose, a gill for every twenty-five hens, in the drinking water, every other day.

In the July 15th, 1895, issue of *Farm-Poultry*, the editor of A FEW HENS gave these pointers on feeding:

"When a hen receives a large supply of carbonaceous food, she increases her fat without supplying the necessary elements needed in the renewal of the feathers, and there is a general wasting away, inactivity of the bird, and death. When no stimulant is given, the shafts of the new feathers seem to stick on too long, not splitting open freely. If the moult is late in the season, see that the fowls are



The illustration above was drawn by F. L. Sewall, the noted animal artist. It shows on the left a White Wyandotte hen after she has gotten her new plumage by the aid of proper care and feeding, while shedding her feathers. At the right of this cut is a picture of the same hen while moulting. Note the difference. **While Moulting;** Imperfect plumage, an empty nest and drooping health. **After Moulting;** Fine exhibition feathers, a full nest, erect carriage and perfect health. How you may accomplish the same result with your moulting hens is told in the notes herewith, if heeded and practiced at moulting season.

The early moulting hens can be counted on for winter layers.

After the third year, the time of moulting becomes delayed.

Green bone, bran and skim-milk are invaluable at this season.

It is cruel and dangerous to pull out the feathers to assist moulting.

Give no corn, potatoes or meat to fowls while moulting, says Prof. Vale.

It is a good plan to remove the early moulting fowls from the late ones.

Some valuable tonics are published in the August issue of A FEW HENS.

A pullet hatched in February or March will go into moult in the fall with the hens.

Not properly cared for, a great many fowls die at this critical period of their life.

The moulting season begins, generally, in August—sometimes in July—but not in spring, as U. S. Bulletin, No. 7, would have us believe.

Bad moulting is due to too close confinement, improper food, or a constitutional weakness of the fowl, the latter caused by too long in-and-in breeding.

Nature causes wild birds to moult at the very season when they have food in the greatest plenty; which may be taken as a guide that good food is necessary to them at this time.

A pullet hatched in spring, if properly fed and cared for, will come into lay in the fall, and does not undergo what might be termed the regular moult, though in reality she has continually moulted from chickenhood.

Douglas Mixture is recommended during this season, by some writers. It

kept warm, especially during the night. When birds droop too much, and seem on the decline, give two or three one grain doses of calomel.

"The proper food consists in a morning mash made from bran and ground oats, equal parts, to which add Sheridan's Condition Powder, meat scraps and bone meal. Green cut bone can be given at noon twice a week. On days when the bone is omitted, hemp seed and sunflower seed can be alternated. In the evening alternate feeds of whole oats and wheat. Keep a cabbage head hung within reach; and do not neglect the grit supply.

"Remember, that with right feeding, good housing, and proper care, the fowls not only come out in better condition, but several weeks are gained in completing the process, and, consequently, the hens start in earlier to lay.